

Committee to review bond allocations to begin working officially next month

By SUZY VALENTINE

A panel formed to review the allocation of \$2.9 billion in bonds across Miami-Dade County is to begin its mission next month.

The 21-member Citizens Advisory Committee, created to review the county's General Obligations Bond funds, met for the first time last week for a briefing.

"The committee is to meet in early October," said Roger Hernstadt, county capital-improvements coordinator.

The inaugural meeting Aug. 31, Mr. Hernstadt said, "was an orientation to understand the responsibilities and requirements of the committee, looking at issues such as the Sunshine Law and ethics."

Mr. Hernstadt said the panel is to:

- Review and monitor bond allocation.

- Advise the county's commission, manager and mayor.

- Help prepare quarterly and annual reports.

- Participate in outreach activities in the community.

- Advise on the use of unspent and surplus funds.

This year, favorable interest rates led to the release of \$265 million, \$15 million more than the \$250 million anticipated. After fees, a further \$9 million is to be distributed this year.

"We'll be looking at which projects earmarked for funds in years 2-15 can be moved to Year 1," he said. "We're also looking at having a better flow between the General Obligation Bond Program Subcommittee and the full board. It would be good to have the Citizens Advisory Committee meet before the full commission meets."

The subcommittee is to next meet Sept. 13. The full board will then meet Sept. 22.

The county received 94 applications for the 21 seats. County Manager George Burgess announced the selections in an internal memorandum Aug. 9.

The 13 county commissioners each made a selection. They are:

- Civic activist Wendell James.

- Sylvia Person of the county's transit department.

- Former US assistant attorney Barbara Bisno.

- Former North Miami Beach mayor Jeffrey Mishcon.

- Gutierrez Group President Armando Gutierrez Jr.

- Sandra Gonzalez-Levy, senior vice president of corporate communications for Terremark.

- Civic activist George Lindemann.

- Akerman Senterfitt consultant Alan Rubin.

- Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist pastor James Wise.

- Jose Andreu, formerly of World Bank.

- Fred Frost, president of the South Florida AFL-CIO.

- George Foyo, Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce president and CEO.

- Property manager Elisio Alfonso.

County Mayor Carlos Alvarez chose real estate broker Enrique

Bello, attorney Joseph Bober and pharmaceutical consultant Juan Sanchez.

County Manager George Burgess selected Guy Forchlon of the Virginia Key Beach Park Trust, Ann Pope of Ann Pope Consulting, the Beacon Council's Jose Antonio Martinez, Esther Smith Fano of

Miami Dade College and Robin Reiter-Faragalli, president of the Miami Children's Hospital Foundation.

"I'm thrilled to have been included," said Ms. Reiter-Fargalli, who will serve as Miami City Club president until December. "I don't see this committee gearing up until January next year."

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